

South Carolinians from all walks of life. Among some of the services they now provide are, auto, home, and life insurance, as well as financial services such as banking, loans, IRA, and credit cards.

I recall the year 1989 when the South Carolina Farm Bureau Insurance Company faced one of the biggest natural disasters in the history of our state: Hurricane Hugo. The South Carolina Farm Bureau rose to the occasion. It settled some 16,000 claims and paid out more than \$71 million. Then, in 1999, when Hurricane Floyd struck the coast, 90 percent of reported claims were settled within one week, setting a model, if not a record, for expeditious claims management.

Today, the South Carolina Farm Bureau Insurance Company has a presence in every county in the State, which is one reason they are able to provide such timely and quality service. There is a name that folks know and trust. I am proud of their service to our State, and wish them the best as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary and look to the future.

MOURNING THE TRAGIC BUS CRASH IN OSSEO, WISCONSIN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart. I mourn with the citizens of western Wisconsin as we remember the lives of five people killed in a tragic school bus crash in Osseo, Wisconsin.

On Sunday, October 16, teachers, chaperons and members of the Chippewa Falls High School Marching Band were returning from a marching band championship when their bus struck an overturned tractor-trailer on Interstate 94 outside the city of Eau Claire. The band director, his wife and granddaughter, the bus driver, and a student teacher all were killed in the collision. Additionally, 29 other people were injured in this terrible accident.

Sunday should have been a day of celebration for the Chippewa Falls Community. The Cardinals' routine, "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," earned the school third place in its division at the Wisconsin School Music Association State Marching Band Championships in Whitewater. Instead of excitement over a job well done, the night would end in tragedy. At 2 a.m., the first of four buses carrying more than 200 students and 40 adults struck the overturned trailer on the dark road.

That day Wisconsin lost dedicated secondary education teachers and valued members of our community. The band director, Morgan Greenhalgh, affectionately called "G" by his students, was more than a teacher to them; he was a friend. His pupils said of him that he was able to bring out the best in his students, creating an extended family of those he taught. His peers said he was a wonderful teacher and a role model who will be impossible to replace.

Sadly, Therese Greenhalgh and their granddaughter, Morgan, also were lost in the crash. As was Brandon Atherton, a student teacher. Only 24 years old, Brandon attended the university of Wisconsin Eau Claire. Even at such a young age, he was committed to giving back

to the community. And finally, Paul Rasmus, the bus driver was killed. At 78 years old, he was in the golden years of life. Instead of living a simple life of retirement, he spent his last years in service to the students at Chippewa Falls High School.

There were 29 students and adults who suffered serious injuries as a result of the collision. My heart goes out to all those who were involved in this terrible accident, as well as the families, students, and the community that were effected that terrible morning. On behalf of all the residents of western Wisconsin, each of us shares in your loss, and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones.

INTRODUCING THE EVACUEES TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Evacuees Tax Relief Act of 2005, legislation providing tax relief to those forced to abandon their homes because of a natural disaster. This legislation provides a tax credit or a tax deduction, depending on the wishes of the taxpayer, of up to \$5,000 for costs incurred because of a government-ordered mandatory or voluntary evacuation. Evacuees could use the credit to cover travel and lodging expenses associated with the evacuation, lost wages, property damages not otherwise compensated, and any other evacuation-related expenses. The tax credit is refundable up to the amount of income and payroll taxes a person would otherwise pay, thus ensuring working people who pay more in payroll than in income taxes are able to benefit from this tax relief. The credit is available retroactive to August of this year, so it is available to Katrina and Rita evacuees.

Having had parts of my district, including my home county, subject to mandatory evacuation because of Hurricane Rita, I have seen firsthand the burdens on those forced to uproot themselves and their families. Evacuees incur great costs in getting to safety, as well as loss from the storm damage. It can take many months, and even years, to fully recover from the devastation of a natural disaster. Given the unpredictable nature of natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornados, it is difficult for most families to adequately budget for these costs. The Evacuees Tax Relief Act helps Americans manage the fiscal costs of a natural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to think of a more timely and more compassionate tax relief proposal than one aimed at helping families cope with the costs associated with being uprooted from their homes, jobs, and communities by a natural disaster. I hope all my colleagues will show compassion for those forced to flee their homes by cosponsoring the Evacuees Tax Relief Act.

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY—100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, out on the hot, windy, arid plains of West Texas, where the prairie dog and the coyote make their home, amidst the tumble weeds, is a school that is the oasis of private Christian education and excellence. Celebrating its 100th year, Abilene Christian University, with its over 4000 students and 200 faculty members, has progressed dramatically since its beginning in 1906 as Childress Classical Institute.

Mr. J.W. Childress sold A.B. Barret some land outside Abilene, Texas to start a Christian school. The Church of Christ in Abilene backed the project. Then in 1912, when Jesse P. Sewell became President, the school started using the name Abilene Christian College, or commonly referred to as Abilene Christian.

The school moved its campus in 1929 after receiving money from the city of Abilene and land donated by the people of the city. The new campus permanently moved to the Northeast portion of town, fondly referred to as the Hill. ACC eventually became Abilene Christian University in 1976.

The school has students from all 50 states and 60 foreign countries. ACU is proud to be a liberal arts institution and has excellent programs in Business, Bible and Education. Numerous students go on to receive graduate degrees at ACU and other universities. All four of my kids, Kim, Kara, Kurt, and Kellee Lyn attended ACU.

The school has had tremendous athletic programs and its track program has won National Championships for over 60 years. The purple and white Wildcats are now in NCAA Division II and compete in all major sports.

Having been a student at ACU, the school—affiliated with the Churches of Christ—is a unique experience. The people who are at the University, not just the students, but the teachers and administration are a unique type of people.

Garvin Beauchamp, former head football coach, and then Dean of students, did much for me personally to make me see the importance of making good choices in life—He, like other faculty and staff, routinely has students in his home for informal gatherings, Bar-B-Que, and pizza. Students are taught by professors with very few teaching assistants.

I remember several Political Science classes I took from Dr. Gary Thompson that had 10 students learning politics.

My senior year at ACU, I was president of Galaxy Social Club—similar to Fraternities at other schools. We had an annual big event, a formal banquet, for our club. I drove an old 1962 Chevy Nova SS, more like a hot rod instead of a dating vehicle. And I wanted to borrow a nicer car to impress my date. Being the President of the club, I also needed a vehicle to make a statement at the party. So I went to the office of the President of the University and met with President Don Morris. I candidly told him my dilemma.

Then, I asked him if I could borrow his car because his well recognized Lincoln with license plates ACC-1 was the best car in town.